

# Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



---

**HF 566** – School Board Elections on City Election Date (LSB1380HV)

Analyst: Jennifer Acton (Phone: (515)281-7846) ([jennifer.acton@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.acton@legis.iowa.gov))

Fiscal Note Version – New

---

## **Description**

**House File 566** relates to political subdivision elections by changing the date of the election of directors of local school districts, community college districts (merged areas), and area education agency boards; providing for the combined administration of regular and special school and city elections; making changes to the administration of elections for political subdivisions located in more than one county; establishing requirements for ballot arrangement and placement for political subdivision offices; and including effective date, applicability, and transition provisions.

## **Background**

- According to the Secretary of State's Office, in the last four school elections, the voter turnout average was 6.5%. The average for city elections in that same time frame was 21.3%.
- County auditors bill city and school district election costs back to the respective cities and school districts.

## **Assumptions**

- Combining school and city district boundaries is complicated due to incompatible boundary lines.
- The Secretary of State's Office requires approximately 400 hours of specialized GIS work and the purchase of an ArcGIS software license.
- The GIS consultant will identify new ballot styles and modify the statewide voter registration database. One-time programming costs are estimated to be \$100 per hour.
- The statewide voter registration software and poll book modifications for IVoters and Express Voters will be required. One-time programming costs are estimated to be \$110 per hour, and approximately 75 hours of programming time are anticipated.
- The impact on cities and schools will vary based on how the current voting precinct boundaries are adjusted.
- When two elections are combined into one, the scope of the combined election will be larger; therefore, the cost savings will vary and may not be realized by every jurisdiction. Cities may realize cost savings because they are already paying for a larger scale election and will now be sharing some of those costs with schools and community colleges. Schools and community colleges may not see as much savings, if any, since they will now be paying for a portion of a larger election with more precincts, longer hours, and more ballot styles.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The one-time fiscal impact to the Secretary of State's Office for programming and GIS costs is estimated to be \$50,000. The impact of combining voting precincts cannot be determined until the GIS work is completed.

**Source**

Secretary of State's Office  
Iowa League of Cities  
Iowa State Association of Counties

---

March 15, 2017

---

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

---